

**CITY OF GAHANNA
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES – April 4, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Luke Messinger called the Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at 7:03 p.m. at the City of Gahanna.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Luke Messinger
Eric Miller
Dave Thom
Vincent Tremante

Absent: Diane Cantrell
Marlene Eader
Dot Micacchion

In attendance from the City Administration was Tony Collins, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Thom made a **MOTION** to approve the March 7, 2007 Regular meeting minutes; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, and Tremante, Yes. **The motion carried 4 – 0.**

Thom made a **MOTION** to approve the March 7, 2007 Public Meeting (Animal Free Zones) Minutes; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes and Tremante, Yes. **The motion carried 4 – 0.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Miller made a **MOTION** to approve the April 4, 2007 agenda; seconded by Tremante. **On roll call vote:** Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes and Messinger, Yes. **The motion carried 4 – 0.**

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Lynne Vermillion 647 Ridenour Road Gahanna, Ohio; requested the outcome of the Animal Free Zone Public Meeting. Ms. Vermillion will be sending a letter to the Parks Department and the Parks Board members; there are several committees that provide reports to the Parks Board. Ms. Vermillion is proposing that a Dog Park Advisory Committee be established. Dog Park Representatives are a very active group and have donated \$10,000 worth of assets to the City. The Dog Park affects a lot of people and at this time there is no forum for Dog Park issues, improvements, or for programs to be

brought to the attention to the Parks Board.

Vermillion expressed concern if the bond issue passes through City Council, and some of the money goes to improving the Dog Park, in the year or so that it takes to get Hanna completed an alternative Dog Park needs to be established. The temporary Dog Park does not need to be fancy; it just needs space with fencing and trash cans.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Bond Program

Tony Collins presented information regarding the Bond program presented to Council on March 26, 2007. Manor Homes is a development project that is currently under construction. The City has an agreement to build the infrastructure to the site at an estimated cost is \$1.3 million, agreed to Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to fund the project and to purchase parkland (\pm 8.6 acres for \$600,000 to add to Hannah Park).

The Bond Program will provide funding for ten (10) Capital Projects. The projects that affect the Department of Parks & Recreation are: Rice Avenue Basin & Foxwood Parks, Central Corridor Park Purchase & Development, Hannah Park Complete Development and increase recreational trails and connectivity. Collins stated spend down requirements of the Bonds are 75% spent by 18 months.

Collins explained the 2007 Parks improvement schedule already includes:

- Academy Park Playground
- McCorkle Park Playground and dumpster screen
- Friendship Park trails, landscaping and rain gardens
- McCorkle Park trail and drainage
- Woodside Green restroom renovation and trail overlay completion
- Creekside Park bank stabilization
- Headley Park overflow parking and driving lanes – tentative project based on findings of parking studies

This work is in addition to our routine maintenance projects and the tentative Bond project.

Jr. League Football Update

Collins explained resident Kathy Culp e-mailed Messinger, Miller and himself several concerns regarding the Jr. League Football Organization. Collins also received an e-mail from Steve Guendert with additional concerns regarding the league. Letters were sent to the media, and the IRS. The letter to the media stated there is a public issue with the league that needs investigated. The IRS letter addressed the concerns of the league not filing tax returns, paying sales tax, and not filling 1099's.

Collins and Euton met with Jr. League Football representatives Jim Chiero, past

President and Don Turner, current President regarding the concerns mentioned in the e-mails.

The current Field Use Agreement given to all the junior league sports organizations addresses the three items of concern. The three items of concern; not paying sales tax, the league stated they were not aware they had to pay sales tax since they were a non profit. Not filing 1099, the league has a record of what they paid all their employees, did not realize they had to file the 1099. The remainder of the items the 990 form they are a 501 3c; they did not have a copy of their health permits. The League has to get the items turned into the city.

Jim Woods, Columbus Dispatch spoke with Collins who reported these types of issues are not uncommon for these organizations. Talking to peers, other cities New Albany, Whitehall, both did not know you had to pay sales tax on concessions. The Columbus Dispatch printed an article regarding the Jr. League Football Organization.

Donation and Fee Waiver Request

The Board reviewed the donation requests. The organizations making donation request are:

1. Arthritis Foundation - June 5, 2007 Golf Classic – Donation for Silent Auction
2. Veterans First Foundation - August 26, 2007 – 4th Annual Brandon Lee Ratliff Memorial Golf Tournament – Raffle
3. Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District - October 18, 2007 – 61st Annual Banquet – Donation for Silent Auction
4. Ohio State University – Ohio State Calling - Annual Giving – Donation request
5. Reynoldsburg Chamber of Commerce - April 27, 2007 Silent/Live Auction Fundraiser
6. Friends of the Big Walnut Creek (FOBWC) – Requesting a fee waiver for the use of Woodside Green and Academy Park Shelters on April 29, 2007 to set up educational stations and displays.
7. Gahanna Swim Club – Requesting a fee waiver for the use of the Golf Course Clubhouse for two hours on May 6, 2007.

Tremante made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation of two Golf passes for the Arthritis Foundation, Veterans First Foundation, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District, Ohio State University and the Reynoldsburg Chamber of Commerce; seconded by Miller. **On roll call vote:** Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes and Messinger, Yes. **The motion carried 4-0 and was approved.**

Miller made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation of a fee waiver to Friends of the Big Walnut Creek for use of Woodside Green and Academy Park Shelters on April 29, 2007 and Gahanna Swim Club; two hour use of the Golf Course Clubhouse on May 6, 2007; seconded by Thom. **On roll call vote:** Thom, Yes, Tremante, Abstain, Messinger, Yes and Miller, Yes. **The motion carried 3 Yes; 1 Abstain; motion approved.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

Additional comments regarding the Animal Free Zones was distributed.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Collins distributed the Director's Report.

Miller requested an update on the cell tower placement. Collins stated the cell company submitted their application to the Planning Commission. The recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Board was for the cell tower to be placed by the dumpsters. The Planning Commission will hold a Public Meeting regarding the cell tower placement.

Recreation Supervisor test were certified by Civil Service on April 3rd, interviews will be on April 10th. The Recreation Supervisor will run the adult sports leagues, concession and pro shop at the golf course and the pool.

The building feasibility study is being finalized and should be completed along with the economic development impact study by the end of 2007.

COMMITTEES' REPORT

Bikeway Advisory Committee

No updates at this time

Community Improvement Corporation (C.I.C.)

No updates at this time

Creekside Development Team meeting

Miller attended the meeting and received an update on Creekside. The grand opening is planned for sometime in September.

Natural Resource Advisory Committee

Tremante stated Academy Park assessment has been completed.

Foundation Committee

No updates at this time

Veterans Memorial Committee

No updates at this time

Gahanna Jefferson School Board

No updates at this time

POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT:

Miller and Thom expressed how great the current Gateway looks.

Tremante stated April 21st is clean up day at Friendship Park. A poster will be displayed at Friendship Park with clean up information. Tremante expressed he would like to see more involvement with the dog community and feels a dog park committee would be beneficial.

Thom agreed that the board should have more involvement with the dog park.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Board at this time, Miller made a **MOTION** to adjourn; seconded by Thom. The motion carried, unanimously.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2007

Luke Messinger, Chair